

## § 1720.155

regard thereto as the circumstances may warrant.

### § 1720.155 Ex parte communications.

(a) No person shall communicate with an administrative law judge or an appeals officer either directly or indirectly concerning any pending proceeding unless prior to or simultaneously with such communication its contents are disclosed in detail to all persons interested in the proceeding; nor shall an administrative law judge or appeals officer request or consider any such unauthorized ex parte communication. This prohibition shall not apply to a simple request for information respecting the status of the proceeding, nor to any ex parte communication expressly authorized by these rules.

(b) Any administrative law judge or appeals officer, who receives an ex parte communication which the judge knows or has reason to believe is unauthorized, shall promptly place the communication, or its substance, in the public file and shall inform all persons interested in the proceeding of its existence and general contents. Facts or arguments so communicated shall not be taken into account in deciding any matter in issue unless such facts or arguments shall be brought properly before the administrative law judge.

(c) Opportunity to answer allegations or contentions contained in an unauthorized ex parte communication may be afforded any interested person upon motion for leave to do so, wherever such leave will operate to assure a fair hearing or decision.

### § 1720.160 Form and filing requirements.

(a) *Filing.* Except as otherwise permitted, an original and three copies of all documents shall be filed with the Docket Clerk for Administrative Proceedings, Room 10278, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410, on official work days between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

(b) *Title.* Documents shall show clearly the title of the action, the docket number, and OILSR file number in connection with which they are filed.

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(c) *Form.* Except as otherwise permitted, all documents shall be printed, typewritten, or otherwise processed in clear legible form and on good unglazed paper.

### § 1720.165 Time computation.

Computation of any period of time prescribed or allowed by the rules and regulations in this part, or by order of the Secretary or of an administrative law judge, shall begin with the first business day following that on which the act, event, development or default initiating such period of time shall have occurred. When the last day of the period so computed is a Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday, or other day on which the Department of Housing and Urban Development is closed, the period shall run until the end of the next following business day. Except when any prescribed or allowed period of time is 7 days or less, each of the Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays shall be included in the computation of the prescribed or allowed period.

### § 1720.170 Service.

Notices, orders, processes, determinations and other documents required or permitted under these rules may be served as follows:

(a) *Upon the Secretary.* By personal delivery at the office, or by registered or certified mail addressed to the office of any of the following officials in the Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration: Administrator; Associate Administrator; Director, Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration: *Provided, however,* That during the pendency of a proceeding before the Secretary all pleadings, motions, notices or other documents shall be served in accordance with the terms of § 1720.160.

(b) *Upon any other person.* By delivery of a copy of the documents to the person to be served wherever the person may be found, or by leaving such copy at the person's office or place of business with a person apparently in charge thereof, or, if there is no one in charge or if the office is closed or if the person has no office, by leaving a copy at the person's residence with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein, or sending a